

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. A data processing system for analyzing billing indices regarding billed telecommunications items comprising:
  - data input means for receiving the telecommunications bills;
  - means for storing a database of pre-determined billing indices;
  - a processor including:
    - means for comparing the billed indices from the telecommunications bill against of the pre-determined indices,
    - means for identifying billing discrepancies between the billed indices and the pre-determined indices, and
    - means for generating deprovision requests and billing disputes based upon the billing discrepancies; and
    - data output means for transmitting the deprovision requests and the billing disputes.
2. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the processor further includes means for determining and correcting errors in the database of pre-determined billing indices.
3. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the processor further includes means for identifying installed telecommunication components that are not included as the billed telecommunication items and for accruing the un-included installed telecommunication components.
4. A method for analyzing billing items in telecommunications bills received by a consumer from a vendor, comprising the steps of:
  - extracting data from the telecommunication bills;
  - identifying non-existent billing item components in the telecommunication bills by comparing the billing item components in the telecommunication bills to an existing component database;

7 determining erroneous billing item rates in the telecommunication bills by  
8 comparing the billing item rates in the telecommunication bills to rate data stored in a  
9 rate database;

10 determining erroneous billing item quantities in the telecommunications bills by  
11 comparing the billing item quantities in the telecommunication bills to quantity data  
12 stored in a quantity database;

13 generating a billing dispute for the billing items based upon the non-existent  
14 billing item components, erroneous billing item rates and erroneous billing item  
15 quantities.

1 5. The method recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

2 generating deprovision requests to the vendors based upon the non-existent  
3 billing item components.

4 6. The method recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

5 determining and correcting errors in the existing component database.

6 7. The method recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

7 identifying installed components from the existing component database that are  
8 not included as billing item components in the telecommunication bills; and

9 accruing the un-included installed components.

1 8. The method recited in claim 4 wherein the quantity database contains component  
2 usage and component configuration data.

3 9. A system for analyzing billing items in telecommunications bills received by a  
4 consumer from a vendor, comprising the steps of:

5 a existing component database containing data identifying existing components;

6 a rate database containing data identifying billing rates for the existing components;

5 a quantity database containing data identifying quantities of the existing  
6 components;

7 means for receiving and extracting data from the telecommunication bills;

8 means for comparing the billing item components in the telecommunication bills  
9 to the existing component database to identify non-existent billing item components in  
10 the telecommunication bills;

11 means for comparing the billing item rates in the telecommunication bills to the  
12 rate database to determine erroneous billing item rates in the telecommunication bills;

13 means for comparing the billing item quantities in the telecommunication bills to  
14 the quantity database to determine erroneous billing item quantities in the  
15 telecommunications bills;

16 means for disputing the billing items based upon the non-existent billing item  
17 components, erroneous billing item rates and erroneous billing item quantities.

1 10. The system recited in claim 9 further comprising:

2 means for generating deprovision requests to the vendors based upon the non-  
3 existent billing item components.

1 11. The system recited in claim 9 further comprising:

2 means for determining and correcting errors in the existing component database.

1 12. The system recited in claim 9 further comprising:

2 means for identifying installed components from the existing component  
3 database that are not included as billing item components in the telecommunication  
4 bills; and

5 means for accruing the un-included installed components in an accounting  
6 system of the consumer.

- 1 13. The system recited in claim 9 wherein the quantity database contains component  
2 usage and component configuration data.

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